# Utilities Privatization Southern Company's Experience

Federal Utility Partnership Working Group
Fall Meeting 2002
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# **Topics**

- Southern Company Background
- Privatization Involvement
  - Army
  - DESC
  - Air Force
  - Navy
- Obstacles
- Good News

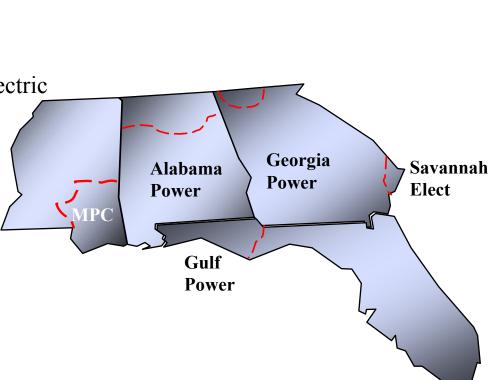




# **Background**

- Southern Company:
  - Parent company to
    - Alabama Power
    - Georgia Power & Savannah Electric
    - Gulf Power
    - Mississippi Power (MPC)
- Active DoD Installations
  - Army 8
  - Navy 10
  - Air Force 7
  - Marine Corps 1





Energy to Serve Your World"

- Fort Benning (Columbus, GA)
  - RFP issued in 1995 with proposals due in late 1996.
  - Contracting authority Ft Worth COE
  - Georgia Power proposed disqualified even though GPC already owned the distribution system in Family Housing
  - Poorly written RFP that passed all risk to bidder
  - Compensation for privatization service based on the number of kWh's across the master meter
  - GPC took issue with 10-yr. term
- Awarded to Flint EMC in 1998





- Forts McPherson/Gillem (Atlanta, GA)
  - RFP issued by the Army Atlanta Contracting Center in 1998
  - Contained a prescriptive pricing structure
    - Price resets each year based on a depreciation formula
    - Price structure caused continuous system upgrades equal to depreciation rate
  - Competition with Coweta-Fayette EMC, City of East Point (Muni)
    - Non-income tax paying entities
  - RFP withdrawn in February 2002





### **Privatization Involvement – Air Force**



- Maxwell AFB/Gunter Annex, (Montgomery, AL)
  - One of Air Force's "Path Finder" projects
  - Contracting authority is AFCESA
  - RFP issued in 1999
  - Proposal submitted in 2001
  - Continuous negotiation throughout 2002
  - No decision to date

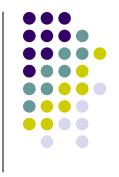




- Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, (Hinesville/Savannah, GA)
  - Joint privatization effort by Georgia Power and Savannah Electric
  - RFP issued in 1999 by DESC
  - Original proposals due February 2000
  - December 2000, procurement transferred to Huntsville COE
    - HCOE issued amendment New RFP w/ 2001 contract number and Huntsville's two-step method
    - March 2001 GPC/Savannah Elect cannot comply w/ CAS
    - Amendment issued to remove CAS
  - Resubmitted proposal in July 2001
  - Negotiated until October 2001
  - Awarded to Canoochee EMC







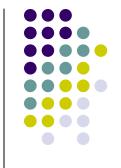
- Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Con't
  - GPC/Savannah Elect file GAO protested
  - Dec 2001, GAO sustained protest
  - HCOE issues several more Amendments w/ final due date May 2002
  - Five days prior to due date, HCOE reinstates CAS requirements
  - Late June 2002, GPC/Savannah Elect disqualified
    - Did not meet technical requirement
      - Could not comply w/ CAS
      - Did not offer price redetermination in 3-yrs (Offered 20-yr. fixed price)
  - Awarded again to Canoochee EMC



- NAVFAC Southern Division Area D & E
  - RFP issued in late 1999 as Area D and sole sourced most utility systems to the regulated serving utility
  - Area D subsequently divided into Area D & E and all systems competitive
  - Area E issued in March 2000 and included 6 Navy installations
    - 4 installations in Gulf Power territory (Pensacola & Milton, FL)
    - 2 installations in Mississippi Power territory (Gulfport & Pascagoula, MS)
  - Area E proposals submitted July 2002
  - Area D proposals due June 2003
  - Relatively open RFP structure
  - Imposed Navy's Small Business Goals on the procurement







- Issued RFP for Dobbins ARB (AF) and NAS Atlanta (Navy)
   June 2000 (Marietta, GA)
  - Submitted original proposal in February 2001
  - Resubmitted proposal in May 2001 and November 2001
  - Resubmitted proposal to Air Force for Dobbins ARB in October 2002
  - Have been in negotiation mode with DESC, the Air Force and Southern Division NAVFAC since May 2001.
  - Completed negotiations w/ DESC/Air Force October 2002
    - Settled problems w/ Air Force Right of Way document at added expense to AF
  - NAS Atlanta still pending
    - Southern Division appears to be more flexible and will lead to lower cost.
  - Awaiting decision on award







- Fort Rucker (Daleville, AL)
  - RFP's issued in September 2001
  - Only 4 Amendments issued
  - Proposal submitted in April 2002
  - Have had one negotiating session
  - Awaiting decision or further discussions





- Fort Gordon (Augusta, GA)
  - RFP's issued in September 2001
  - Several rounds of questions and answers
  - 6 Amendments issued so far
  - Georgia Power's response influenced by outcome of Fort Stewart/Hunter AAF
  - Proposal in progress
  - Proposal due in January 2003





- Navy Coastal Systems Station (Panama City Beach, FL)
  - RFP's issued in September 2002
  - Work on proposal just beginning
  - Proposal due in January 2003





### **Obstacles**



- Cost Accounting Standards (CAS)
  - Regulated utilities keep financial records IAW FERC and State Regulator
  - CAS written for "Defense Contractors"
  - Serving utility is not a Defense Contractor
  - FAR 52.230-3, Cost Accounting Standards
    - Provides waiver for utility services provided by tariff
    - Provides waiver for contracts less than \$7.5 million/yr.
    - Provides waiver for fixed price contracts awarded under competition



### **Obstacles**



- Right of Way Documents
  - Air Force:
    - Grantee must indemnify Gov't up to Gov't gross negligence
    - Ability of self insure not permitted
    - Maintenance (trimming) of right of way subject to base commanders approval
    - Order of Precedence Right of way, Bill of Sale, Contract
      - Army, Navy Contract is controlling document
    - Beware of "gotchas" in RoW documents



### **Obstacles**



- All Services:
  - No common RFP structure even within a Service
  - Requirement to meet the Service's Small Business Goals
    - Service SB Goals apply to Service branch's total budget
    - Unrealistic to impose requirement for Privatization Contract
    - Navy Won't accept SBP from GSA Areawide Contract
      - Utility may end up with a different SBP for each contract
  - Process is extremely confrontational
  - De-Brief process doesn't work
    - No common Source Selection Board or standards



### **Good News**



- DESC Beginning to understand how regulated utilities work
  - Recent events point to an understanding on CAS
  - Navy and Air Force not there yet
- Air Force requesting input on RoW document
- OSD standardizing on cost evaluation tool
  - Somewhat levels the playing field on cost comparisons taxable vs. non-taxable
- OSD fixed the disallowance of interest expenses
- Stop the RFP process on small bases
  - Just ask for a proposal







# **Questions?**

